28 *July* 1832.

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For transferring the Powers and Duties of the Commissioners of Public Accounts in Ireland to the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts of Great Britain.

N. B.—The Words printed in *Italics* are proposed to be inserted in the Committee.

WHEREAS divers Acts have been passed by the former Parliament of that part of the United Kingdom called Ireland, and subsequently by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, for the Regulation and due Examination and Audit of certain Public Accounts of Ireland (not being Military or Army Accounts;) And whereas in pursuance of the said Acts certain Commissioners were appointed by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Ireland, for the due Examination and Audit of the said Accounts; and by virtue of an Act passed in the First and Second years of the reign of His present Majesty, the Powers granted by such Letters Patent have become vested in Three Commissioners, who are now in the exercise of the same: Preamble.

And whereas it is expedient that the Examination and Audit of the beforementioned Accounts should be transferred from the said Commissioners to the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts of Great Britain;

BE it therefore Enacted, by The KING's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, THAT at any time within the period of One Year after the *passing of this Act*, it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, to revoke the Commission under which the said Three Commissioners now act, and to direct and command that the functions and authorities of the said Commissioners shall from thenceforth cease and determine, and that all Accounts then subject to their examination and audit shall from

Revoking the Functions and Powers of Commissioners of Audit in Ireland, and transferring same to Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts in Great Britain.

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from the date of the said Letters Patent be rendered to and be examined and audited by the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts of Great Britain, and that all Persons liable to render Accounts to the present Commissioners in Ireland shall from thenceforth duly render the same to the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts of Great Britain; and for these purposes that the said Commissioners of Accounts in Ireland shall forthwith transmit to the Commissioners of Audit in Great Britain all Accounts, Books, Muniments, and all other official Documents in their custody or power, and likewise all the Accounts depending in their Office which may not then have been examined, or of which the examination may not then have been completed, in order that the same may be examined and audited by the Commissioners last mentioned.

Commissioners to have same Powers as to Proceedings in Irish Courts of Law, as are exercised by them in the English Courts.

And be it further Enacted, That from and after the date of the said Letters Patent, all the Powers and Authorities now possessed and exercised by the said Commissioners of Audit in Ireland shall forthwith become vested in the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts of Great Britain, who, in examining and auditing the Accounts so transferred to them, shall from thenceforth perform the same Duties and follow the same course of proceeding in all respects as are practised in the Audit Office of Great Britain with regard to the Accounts now examined in that Department; and the said last-mentioned Commissioners shall also, with respect to all Accounts rendered to them from Ireland, be invested with all the same powers relative to Proceedings in the Irish Courts of Law, and otherwise, as are now possessed and exercised by them in the English Courts, or otherwise, with respect to the Accounts which are now subject to their examination.

Accounts to be under the control of Commissioners of the Treasury.

Power and Authority of Lord Lieutenant with respect to Accounts to cease.

And be it further Enacted, That the Commissioners of the Treasury shall have the same Superintendence and Controul over the Accounts to be examined and audited according to the Provisions of this Act, as are now exercised by them with regard to all Accounts now examined by the Commissioners of Audit in Great Britain; but that all the Provisions contained in the Acts of the Irish Parliament as to the power and authority of the Lord Lieutenant, and the Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, with respect to the above Accounts, shall accordingly cease and determine from the date of the said last mentioned Letters Patent.

Commissioners of Audit to transmit a Statement of every Account to the Treasury.

And be it further Enacted, That the Commissioners of Audit in Great Britain shall transmit a Statement of every Account examined and audited by them under the authority of this Act to the Commissioners of the Treasury, who, having considered such Statement, shall return the same to the Commissioners of Audit, together with their Warrant, directing them to make up and pass the Account, either conformably to the Statement, or with such variations as they may deem just and

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and reasonable; and the Account having been made up pursuant to such directions, and signed by Three or more of the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts, shall remain deposited in the Audit Office, and shall have the same force and validity and be as efficient in law for all purposes whatsoever as if the same had been declared according to the usual course by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Attorneys or Solicitors in Actions or Suits pending in Superior Courts in Ireland may by Requisition obtain Documents essential to Evidence.

And be it further Enacted, That from and after the time when the Transfer of Accounts hereby authorized shall have taken place, it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners of Audit in Great Britain, upon any Requisition addressed to them by the Attorney or Solicitor of the Plaintiff or Defendant in any Action or Suit depending in any of the Superior Courts of Ireland, to transmit to some Person in that country to be appointed by them for that purpose, any Receipt, Voucher or other Document relating to any Account which may be in their Office, and may be deemed necessary by the Party requiring its production, the Party in question paying such Costs as the proper Officer of the Court may deem reasonable, and the Person to whom the Document shall have been transmitted, being bound to produce the same in any Court of Record where the Action or Suit may be depending, when he may be duly called upon and summoned for that purpose.

Commissioners to deliver or transmit to every Accountant a Certificate in the nature of a Quietus.

And be it further Enacted, That in all cases in which any public Account shall have been examined and passed in the Office of the Commissioners of Audit in Great Britain (whether such Account shall have been declared before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or otherwise) the said Commissioners shall deliver or transmit to every Accountant a Certificate, in the nature of a Quietus, specifying the Amounts of the Charge and Discharge, and of the Balance (if any) indebted or in surplusage arising thereon, in the same manner as is now practised by them with regard to declared Accounts.

Commissioners to receive Affidavits and Statements upon Oath in certain cases.

AND whereas it is reasonable and expedient that Affidavits and Statements upon Oath should be admitted in certain cases for the purpose of elucidating doubtful articles in Accounts, and verifying the same; BE it therefore Enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Audit in Great Britain, in all cases in which they shall think fit, to receive Affidavits and Statements upon Oath by public Accountants and others for the above purposes, such Affidavits and Statements being sworn before a Judge of any of the Superior Courts in England, Scotland or Ireland, or of any of the Colonies or Dependencies of Great Britain, or before any Officer or Commissioner authorized to take Affidavits in such Courts, or (in case of the Party making the Affidavit or Statement being resident more than *Ten Miles* distance from any Superior Court) before any Magistrate of the District within which the Party may be resident.

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For transferring the Powers and Duties of the Commissioners of Public Accounts in Ireland to the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts of Great Britain.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
28 *July* 1832.

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